GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3786
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Manual Scavenging
Noor Smt. Mausam

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any campaign to educate people about the perils of manual scavenging and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the number of manual scavengers in the country has reduced due to such initiatives; (c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to rehabilitate manual scavengers; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove social exclusion of manual scavengers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a): Yes Madam, Under "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013(MS Act, 2013)" manual scavenging is prohibited with effect from 06.12.2013. Awareness Camps are organized from time to time by the National Safari Karmacharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC), the implementing agency for "Self Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers" (SRMS). Details of such camps are given in the Annexure-I. In addition, awareness campaign is also carried out through Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP).
(b) & (c): No data is maintained on the number of manual scavengers that have reduced on account of awareness and advocacy campaigns given at (a) above.
(d) & (e): Of the 12,226 manual scavengers identified, one time cash assistance of Rs.40000/- each has been released to 7346 manual scavengers under SRMS to wean them away from their traditional occupation of manual scavenging. They are also provided loans at concessional rate of interest with capital subsidy to take-up alternative employment on sustainable basis. Subject to willingness and eligibility, skill development training with stipend is also provided under SRMS. Details of the rehabilitation provided to manual scavengers are given in Annexure-II.